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MESSAGE

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS
U.S. Patent Application No. 10/563,249

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PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

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1. *(Currently Amended)* A connector seal device for connecting a branch pipe to a transverse opening of a main pipe, the connector seal device comprising:
 - a hollow elastomer insert composed in part of a first material, the elastomer insert including:
 - a flexible support collar; and
 - a sealing wall region with an inside surface tapered in an insertion direction and having first locking ring zones and an outside surface adapted to fit a diameter of the transverse opening, wherein the first locking ring zones comprise a first plurality of ring-shaped teeth and ring-shaped grooves defining a saw-tooth shaped cross section; and
 - an outside surface adapted to fit a diameter of the transverse opening;
 - a pipe union of a second material, the second material being harder than the first material, the pipe union including:
 - an engagement end with an outside surface tapered in the insertion direction and being adapted to cooperate with the inside surface of the elastomer insert, the outside surface having second locking ring zones comprising a second plurality of ring-shaped teeth and ring-shaped grooves defining a saw-tooth shaped cross section and being adapted to cooperate with the inside surface of the elastomer insert; and
 - a socket end adapted to cooperate with the branch pipe,
- whereby when the elastomer insert is inserted in the insertion direction into the transverse opening and the pipe union is inserted pushed in the insertion direction into the elastomer insert, the first and second locking ring zones engage in the manner of ratchet teeth and the elastomer insert is expanded and pressed further against the transverse opening through the continued displacement of the pipe union in the insertion direction.